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THE CANADIAN DOMINION BUBBLE.

The "Canadian Pacific Railroad Company" has begun, I see, to launch its bonds. "A group of Montreal and New York bankers' has undertaken to "float" ten million dollars worth of the Company's land grant bonds, and the Bank of Montreal, with its usual courage, has taken one-fourth of the entire loan. This announcement looks as if the Canadians were going to raise the necessary capital on the other side of the water, but I have a shrewd suspicion that they have no real intention of doing anything of the kind. The New Yorkers are keen enough gamblers, and reckless enough at times, I admit, and yet it is impossible to believe that they are such fools as to put their money into this mad project. I would as soon credit them with a willingness to subscribe hard cash in support of a scheme for the utilization of icebergs. Canadian Pacific Railway will run, if it be ever finished, through a country frost-bound for seven or eight months of the year, and will connect with the eastern part of the dominion a province which embraces about as forbidding country as any on the face of the British Columbians, they say, have forced on the execution of this part of the contract under which

they became incorporated with the Dominion, and believe that prosperity will come to them when the line is made. This is a delusion on their part. British Columbia is a barren, cold, mountainous country, that is not worth keeping. It would never have been inhabited at all, unless by trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company, had the "gold fever" not taken a party of mining adventurers there; and ever since that fever died down the place has been going from bad to worse. Fifty railways would not galvanise it into prosperity.

Nevertheless, the Canadian Government has fairly launched into this project, and I have no doubt the English public will soon be asked to further it with their cash. The parade of selling bonds in New York and Montreal is the new way of doing business that "syndicates," "bankers," and loan contractors have adopted in order that it may seem that they have faith in the schemes they father. I doubt if ten million dollars of ready cash could be found in all Canada for this or any other work of utility at a pinch, but the Canadians are not such idiots as to part with one dollar of their own if they can borrow their neighbours'. The Canadians spend money and we provide it. That has been the arrangement hitherto, and it has worked splendidly—for the Canadians—too well for them to

try any other plan with a scheme like the Pacific Railway, which they must know is never likely to yield a single red cent of interest on the money that may be sunk in A friend of mine told me—and he knew what he was talking about—that he did not believe the muchtouted Manitoba settlement would nold out many years. The people who have gone there cannot stand the coldness of the winters. Men and cattle are frozen to death in numbers that would rather astonish the intending settler if he knew; and those that are not killed outright are often maimed for life by frost-bites. Its street nuisances kill the people with malaria, or drive them mad with plagues of insects; and to keep themselves alive during the long winter they have to imitate the habits of the Esquimaux. Those who want to know what it is like should read the not-yetforgotten books of Colonel Butler. His "Great Lone Land '' is the land of which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has yet five-and-twenty million acres to sell, and it is through a death-dealing region of this kind that "the new railway is to run."

As the bonds "secured" on this land, or others guaranteed by the Dominion Government, are sure to be offered in this market by the "bankers" and others forming the Company, I think a word or two on Canadian finances in general would be in season. Canada

is one of the most over-rated colonies we have, but it is heartily "loyal," and makes the loyalty pay. astute inhabitants know well how to work on John Bull's susceptibilities, and I have seen nothing finer in the way of advertising than poor Lord Lorne's "to ir"; now in progress. He has gone to the North, but just at the right time, and the gushing accounts we are receiving from the "specials" who accompany him are admirably adapted to create a belief that the true land of promise is to be found there at last. such soil to till, and among such Queen worshippers, the distressed British farmer would be in bliss. course, those who choose can believe all that. For my part I know of only one sound province in the whole Dominion—that of Ontario. "It is the only province" as a shrewd land jobber said to me once, "where you can lend money on land with any hope of ever" seeing your own again." As for the country, as a whole it is poor, and it is crushed with debt. The supreme Government owes about £26,000,000 to this country, and about £35,000,000 altogether, and every. province has its separate debt, as also has almost every collection of shanties calling itself a "city." province and city of Quebec are both notoriously bankrupt, and the latter was obliged to go to Paris with its last loan, probably because nobody would lend

it here. Last year the country had the benefit of a good crop, and a good market here, so that it did a little better; but generally it has had hard work to make both ends meet, and often couldn't. every year it comes for a new loan or two, and once it s fairly committed to making this new railway, I see nothing before it but bankruptcy. While the money s being spent all will go well enough, perhaps, but in he end the Dominion will have to go into liquidation. It amazes me that its stocks stand where they do as things are, but if people took the trouble to look below he surface, prices would be very different. One of hese days, when the load gets too heavy, Ontario is Pretty certain to go over to the States into which it ovetails, and where its best trade outlet is. When hat day comes, the "Dominion" will disappear. Vith that contingency ahead, and with the prospect f another £50,000,000 or so to be added to the debt, an it be said that Canadian unguaranteed Four per ents. are worth their present price? This "Dominon'' is, in short, a "fraud'' all through, and is desined to burst up like any other fraud. Then, and ot, I suppose till then, the British taxpayer will ask hy we "guaranteed" so much of this sham Governent's debt.

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